

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UNGA, KS, VE

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REF: CARACAS 8352

1. POL COUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 19 ONCE AGAIN ASKED AMBASSADOR JOSE LUIS MARTINEZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A MEMBER OF VENEZUELA'S DELEGATION TO THE 30TH UNGA, ABOUT VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON KOREA. MARTINEZ RECONFIRMED THAT THE GOV WILL VOTE FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. ASKED WHAT VENEZUELA WILL DO WITH THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, MARTINEZ REPLIED IN EFFECT THAT VENEZUELA'S POSITION WILL BE ONE OF WAIT-AND-SEE. MARTINEZ SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THIS YEAR'S UNGA WILL BE MORE CONCILIATORY THAN LAST YEAR'S, PARTICULARLY SINCE GASTON THORN WILL BE UNGA PRESIDENT. THIS BEING THE CASE, HE HOPED A CONFRONTATION OVER KOREA CAN BE AVOIDED. IF NOT, MARTINEZ HINTED, VENEZUELA MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO VOTE FOR THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AS WELL.

2. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS ADVISED US THAT THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RECENTLY RAISED THE KOREAN ISSUE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTYR (DIAZ GONZALEZ) AND WAS TOLD THAT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT COSPONSOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BUT
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WOULD VOTE FOR IT. APPARENTLY DIAZ GONZALEZ WAS VAGUE ABOUT THE

GOV POSITION ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT. WE HAVE MADE REPEATED APPROACHES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS ISSUE, FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON DOWN. THE KOREAN, CANADIAN, BRITISH AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES HERE ALSO RAISED THIS MATTER. WE BELIEVE THE VENEZUELANS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, AND THAT THEY WILL VOTE FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE GOV'S DECISION ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION WILL BE SHAPED BY EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE VOTE, AND THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT IF A REAL BATTLE DEVELOPS AND MUCH OF THE THIRD WORLD DECIDES TO SUPPORT THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, VENEZUELA WILL GO ALONG WITH THE THIRD WORLD MAJORITY AND ALSO VOTE FOR IT.

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